

472/06

**HISTORY–HI2**

**UNIT 2**

**PERIOD STUDY 6**

**ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF EUROPE, c. 1618-1763**

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 June 2006

(45 minutes)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **one** question.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work to make the wording more accessible.

**You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.**

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Answer **one** question.

*Candidates in their response to the interpretation question should consider the validity of the interpretation using their knowledge of the period and other possible interpretations. Candidates should also consider the factors which may have influenced the way in which the interpretation has been formed – such as the type of historian/author, the evidence available to the historian/author and the date of the publication.*

**1. The reigns of Philip III and Philip IV, 1614-1665.**

‘Although Philip was conscientious and able, he had no force of character and only limited managerial talent. He was, from the start, putty in the hands of his favourite the Duke of Olivares.’

[E.N. Wilson, an academic historian and specialist in seventeenth and eighteenth century European history, writing in a general history book, *The Ancien Regime in Europe* (1970)]

How valid is this interpretation of Spanish government during the reign of Philip IV? [80]

**2. France, 1624-1661: Richelieu and Mazarin.**

‘Richelieu was a remarkably successful politician, whose methods were based on a judicious combination of diplomacy and military force.’

[Stephen Lee, an academic historian and specialist in European history, writing in a general history of Europe, *Aspects of European History, 1494-1789* (1978)]

How valid is this interpretation of the policies of Cardinal Richelieu? [80]

**3. Peter the Great, 1696-1725.**

‘Peter was your Samson, O Russia! He found you with little strength and left you strong as a rock. Peter was your Moses, O Russia! Are not his laws like a strong shield of Justice repressing crime?’

*(These are references to Biblical figures – Samson was famed for his strength and Moses for his wisdom and law-giving powers)*

[From an appraisal of Peter the Great’s reign given at his funeral by the Archbishop of Novgorod. (28 January 1725)]

How valid is this interpretation of the reign of Peter the Great? [80]